one *kotta*, while, under the new arrangement, they were required to pay the *Sripandara-vagai* dues at the rate of 9 *paras* and $3\frac{5}{8}$ *edangalies*, per para of 800 cubic inches as the equivalent of a *kotta* of paddy. In other words, they had to pay more under the new arrangement, which virtually meant a raising of the dues. The Member said that the Government also incurred loss by the new arrangement, as they had to pay the dues to certain Devaswoms at the new equivalent.

He said that the rate of 8 *paras* and $6\frac{1}{2}$ *edangalies* fixed by the Government for the realisation of the Sirkar tax was also not fair as the real equivaleut of a *kotta* was only 7 *paras* and $3\frac{3}{4}$ *edangalies*. Comparing the assessment on an acre of first class land at Nanjanad and at Edanad, the Member said that the assessment in Nanjanad was Rs. 5 more than that at Edanad and that the inequality was the result of fixing 8 *paras* and $6\frac{1}{2}$ *edangalies* as the equivalent of *kotta* in Nanjanad. The grievances of the ryots had been represented at several sessions of the Assembly but no adequate relief had been granted as yet.

The Member prayed that the real capacity of the Nanjanad *marakkal* and the quantity of paddy for a *kotta* of 21 *marakkals* be ascertained correctly and fixed in terms of *paras* and *edangalies* and that a new and reasonable measure for the *marakkal* be introduced in Nanjanad.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

147. Extension of the Railway to Cape Comorin.

Mr. D. Francis (Member, Nominated) in urging the need for the extension of train service to Cape Comorin suggested that a limited Company might be formed with the Special Officer, Industrial Survey, as President and the Registrar, Co-operative Societies, as Secretary, the Government taking shares up to a maximum of half the total number. The value of each share was to be Rs. 15. If Government doubted the utility of the line proposed and of its financial success, a Committee of official and non-official gentlemen might be appointed to investigate the subject.

Mr. Ponniah Nadar (Member, Nominated) said that the extension of the Railway from Trivandrum to the Cape was greatly wished for by the people of Nanjanad. Though the main work could not be taken up owing to the financial stress caused by the war, yet, all preliminary operations such as surveying, levelling, etc., could be finished for the present, so that the work of construction of the line might be commenced soon after the war.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

148. Suggestions for the amelioration of the present condition of Mahomedans.

Mr. S. Adam Sait (Member, Nominated) urged the need for the following:—

(1) the appointment of a Mahomedan Inspector of schools;
(2) the employment of Mahomedan teachers in schools;
(3) the award of not less than 15 scholarships to Mahomedan boys for spreading English education of the High School grade and 3 scholarships for Collegiate education;

(4) the adequate representation of Mahomedans in the Public Service and the better encouragement of those already in the service;

(5) the admission of Mahomedan students in the Caste Hindu Hostel;

(6) the appointment of a member of the community to the Legislative Council;

(7) the increase of the number of Mahomedan Members in the Assembly from 4 to 8;and

(8) the recognition of the following Mahomedan holidays as general holidays, *viz.*, (*a*) *Bar-wafat* (*b*) *Ramzan* (*c*) *Bak-rid* and (*d*) *Moharam 10th*.

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